



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS

MINUTES

**NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELEN NELSON ROOM – TOWN HALL
Executive Session RE: Personnel 6:45 P.M.
Town Council Meeting 7:00 P.M.**

MARCH 27, 2012

Mayor Woods called the Executive Session regarding Personnel to order at 6:45 p.m. in Conference Room 1 of the Newington Town Hall. A motion to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. was made by Councilor Castelle and seconded by Councilor Bottalico. The motion passed 9 – 0.

The Mayor called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Helen Nelson Room in Town Hall.

I & II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL

Councilors Present

Councilor Borjeson
Councilor Bottalico
Councilor Castelle
Councilor Cohen
Councilor DelBuono
Councilor Klett
Councilor McBride
Councilor Nagel
Mayor Woods

Staff Present

John Salomone, Town Manager
Donna Miller – Library Director
Chris Schroeder – Fire Chief
Bruce Till – Superintendent, Parks and Rec Dept.
Ann Harter, Finance Director
Lisa Rydecki – Deputy Finance Director
Jaime Trevethan – Executive Assistant to the Town Manager
Linda Irish-Simpson – Clerk of the Council

III AWARDS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Woods moved the following:

WHEREAS, healthy people and healthy communities are the centerpiece of any strong and vibrant society; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association has proclaimed April 2 through April 8, 2012 as National Public Health Week; and

WHEREAS, National Public Health Week provides an opportunity for the public to learn about public health concerns and its success stories that are vital to healthy communities, such as

Phone: (860) 665-8510 Fax: (860) 665-8507
townmanager@newingtonct.gov
www.newingtonct.gov

immunizations against infectious disease; communicable disease control; tobacco prevention; food protection; ensuring healthy living and working environments; and protection against new and emerging public health threats; and

WHEREAS, National Public Health Week also raises awareness about the fundamental role that state and local health departments play in promoting public health; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Newington, together with its neighboring towns of Wethersfield, Berlin and Rocky Hill, receives quality local and public health services through its regional health department, the Central Connecticut Health District; and

WHEREAS, this year's National Public Health theme is "A Healthier America Begins Today: Join the Movement", which seeks to address the issue of prevention and wellness to ensure that all is being done to improve our nation's health; and

WHEREAS, it is important that we recognize the value of public health and the need to maintain and improve our current public health efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby proclaims April 2, 2012 to April 8, 2012 as NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK in Newington, Connecticut. I encourage all citizens to join me in this celebration by acknowledging the importance of public health activities in improving our local quality of life and taking action to improve and support the health of the entire community, including our own health and well-being.

Kevin Borup thanked the staff of the Health District and felt that Newington was receiving incredible services since joining the Health District. He thanked Laurie for the great job she was doing on behalf of the Health District. Laurie thanked the Town Council for the proclamation.

Councilor Cohen remarked on how impressed she was with the recent clinic and the efficiency with which it ran. Councilor Klett thanked everyone who was involved in the Health District for all they did. She stated there was no doubt that there were a lot of good things being done for the citizens by the Health District. Mayor Woods said the Health District showed that regionalization could work and felt they provided an excellent service.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She stated that as a citizen and as a beneficiary of some of the services provided by the Health District, she thanked them for the services provided to seniors and all the other residents of Newington. She attended a couple of their budget meetings and had an opportunity to meet some of their members and wanted to thank them publicly for all they did for Newington.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and passed 9 – 0.

IV PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She made the suggestion to the Conservation Commission and wanted to ask the MDC as well to give residents affected by the project notice of what would be done. She felt everyone on any street affected should be notified of work being done.

V CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN PLANNER

Councilor Klett moved the following:

RESOLVED:

Pursuant to Section 611 of the Newington Town Charter, the Newington Town Council hereby appoints Craig Minor as Town Planner for the Town of Newington effective April 17, 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Town Manager and Mayor are authorized to finalize the details regarding this appointment.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel and passed 9 – 0.

Councilor Klett stated that it had been a very long process that started in January. The sub-committee which consisted of Councilor Bottalico, Councilor McBride and Councilor Klett met with the Town Manager to review all the applications and the best nine candidates were passed along to a professional panel. Councilor Klett remarked that input was received from TPZ members, and Ed Meehan along with the professional panel. Four

names were passed onto the entire Council who interviewed each of the finalists. Mr. Minor, was coming from Cromwell with extensive experience and was a senior advisor to the Planning and Zoning Commission, which fit nicely with the Town's needs.

Councilor DelBuono stated that the process was very comprehensive and felt there were many opportunities to look at the candidates. She thanked the committee and they picked a person everyone would be happy with and she looked forward to working with Mr. Minor in the future.

Mayor Woods agreed with Councilor DelBuono that the committee took the charge very seriously and believe the most qualified candidate was chosen who would hopefully work for the Town for the next 22 years.

B. ORDINANCE AMENDMENT, CHAPTER 121-1

Councilor McBride moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby adopts amendments to the Newington Code of Ordinances Chapter 121-1 "Voting Districts", a copy of said amendments is attached to the resolution.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and passed 9 – 0.

C. HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRAND/BID WAIVER REQUEST: LASERFISCHE

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

RESOLVED: That John L. Salomone, Town Manager, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for the Historic Documents Preservation grant.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Bottalico and passed 9 – 0.

D. APPOINT AGENT OF RECORD

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

RESOLVED:

Pursuant to §8-28 of the Newington Code of Ordinances, the Newington Town Council hereby appoints the firm of People's United Insurance Agency, of Hartford, Connecticut as Agent of Record for the Town of Newington for the period covering July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015 for the purposes of soliciting, negotiating, placing, overseeing and monitoring the Town's property, casualty and liability insurance package. The fee for this appointment shall be as follows:

2012-13	\$ 22,000.00
2013-14	\$ 22,000.00
2014-15	\$ 22,000.00

The motion was seconded by Councilor Klett and passed 9 – 0.

VI CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. MDC Clean Water Project Presentation

A PowerPoint presentation was made regarding the status of the project and the future work to be done.

Councilor Klett asked about the backup along Church and Cedar Street. The MDC representative explained the pipe was not big enough and the need for an interceptor pipe. The biggest challenge in several towns was that the pipe was designed for sewer. Newington has a high water table, which is a challenge. The pipe was actually collecting storm water from each home and there was a capacity issue. To correct the issue they will build a "highway" down Church and Cedar Streets bigger to accommodate additional flow during a storm and still work

with the Town to get the storm water out. According to historical records of citizen complaints, the Cedar Street area was a trouble area.

Councilor Castelle asked about the dates for the approximately \$50 surcharge and was told the years 2021 – 2038, based on the full \$2.1 billion program. The surcharge was a full projection of the cost even though authorization had been received for only \$800 million of the program. The surcharge was based on average consumption.

Councilor Borjeson asked about the \$100 million a year MDC was spending and where was it coming from. Scott Jellison answered that the amount was required by the State and the remaining \$100 million was on the water distribution side. Councilor Bottalico thanked them for their explanation of the double billing for the sewer and saved him a call to the MDC.

Mayor Woods asked about the high school and some of the parks that have irrigation systems and how was that part of the plan. Mr. Jellison replied that you had to have two criteria in order to be charged the surcharge: 1. certify the MDC water and 2. certify the sewer. Golf courses that use water can be charged the surcharge and that was by bond requirement based on water consumption. If a citizen had a septic tank and water or sewer and a well, they would not be charged the surcharge.

B. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) presentation

Jim Finley, Executive Director and CEO and Kevin Maloney, Member and Public Relations Director, gave an overview of the benefits of belonging the CCM. Mr. Finley stated that Newington would make the CCM a stronger body and the Town would get a good return for their investment. The CCM has the strongest lobbying group in Connecticut on behalf of towns and cities, and a good relationship with the current Governor. The CCM has a professional research and information staff that would be available to elected or appointed officials in Town. Mr. Finley stated CCM provided additional services like technical assistance programs, energy efficiency programs, electric purchasing, and group purchasing. They also provide free training for municipal employees and officials on site and some towns reduce their training budget due to this benefit.

Councilor Borjeson has attended CRCOG meetings and CCM's material regarding their legislative package was particularly impressive. He felt it was clear, straight forward, and right on the money. Councilor Cohen stated that the reason the membership was dropped was strictly a budgetary restriction and felt the group did great work. Mayor Woods felt the CCM ran an excellent program and served the communities well. He agreed that the more towns they represented the stronger voice CCM would have. Mayor Woods stated he would do everything in his power to find the funds to rejoin the CCM.

Councilor Klett stated she absolutely supported the idea of rejoining the CCM because of the benefits to Newington. As a Council member, she would have the ability to pick up the phone and ask for research, which was important.

C. Budget Presentation – Library

Eric Rothausser, President of the Library Board, Donna Miller and Lisa Masten gave an overview of the department, operations and budget request.

John Salomone gave a review of each of the codes:

Code 711-Library Administration: Primary drivers of the account were salaries and data services for the interlibrary loan system. The amount was slightly lower to reflect a more accurate rate for smaller communities.

Code 712-Children's Services: Salaries were basically the same except for one step increase for a library technician. The other major area of Capital Outlay circulation material, which was kept status quo.

Code 713-Reference and Community Services: There are administrative staff in the section with substantial part time salaries included. Most of the circulation material was located in this account. There was a slight increase in this area which reflected non-fiction funds for DVD's and downloadable books.

Code 714-Library Building: This included salary for a part time maintenance worker responsible for the set up and take down at various functions and programs held at the Library. The bulk of the maintenance was set up on a contractual basis with the cleaning service used by Police and Senior Center.

Code 715-Collection Management: This included salaries for full time librarians and a reduction in a part time librarian salary which would show up in another section of the budget.

Code 716-Circulation: The part time salary from code 715 showed up in this section. A large portion was due to part time salaries to allow for flexibility in scheduling of librarians.

Code 730-Hubbard Book Fund: It had dwindled down to \$30, which was a fund set up by the Hubbard family and the \$30 reflected the interest on the fund.

Councilor DelBuono stated that it was wonderful to have downloadable books and other technology available. Mrs. Miller replied that the use of the library website was much higher than in the past to download books, using the card catalogue, reserving of books, use of databases, etc. Councilor Cohen asked about sharing of ebooks with other towns and Mrs. Miller stated that being part of Overdrive allowed Newington to share with 46 other towns as well. She also stated that the library continued to deliver books to the homebound on an occasional basis.

D. Budget Presentation: Parks and Recreation/Grounds

Bruce Till provided an overview of the department, operations and budget request.

John Salomone reviewed each of each of the codes:

Code 810-Administration: This section includes the administrative staff, the director, the recreation professional and clerical staff. The budget presented was 5% reduced from the previous year.

Code 820-Recreation: The Town used to subsidize the Park and Rec special fund, which was the one all the programs go through. The General Fund would no longer have to subsidize the fund which would be self-sustaining from program income.

Code 831-Parks & Public Grounds: The bulk of the maintenance of the parks were included and public grounds, which include Town Hall and all the schools. Overtime was one of the adjustments made since the \$207,000 included the storm last year. The overtime included was down \$64,000. Agricultural supplies were another major area which included top soil, chemicals, fertilizer or seed. The Technical Supply area went up due to new Christmas display lights on Market Square.

Code 832-Cemeteries: The cemetery fund net cost to the Town is zero. The fund reimburses the General Fund for the services provided.

Code 833-Historical Properties: This was used for trimming of trees.

Code 834-Tree Maintenance: The bulk of tree maintenance is in the tree crew, which was actually budgeted in the Parks Department portion. Newington has an inter-town agreement with Wethersfield (\$25k) to share a tree trimming crew that works in Wethersfield and does difficult tree trimming services for Newington.

Bruce Till stated the Department had bought new software to track programs accurately, allow for internet sign-ups and determine the accurate cost of each program. Mayor Woods agreed that when money was tight it was important to know what each program cost and felt Bruce had done an excellent job in that department. Councilor McBride thanked Mr. Till for a lean budget and for offering so many programs to the Town.

E. Bid Waiver: Fire Department/Engine #4

John Salomone explained that Robert Seiler recommended a bid waiver to allow the town to proceed with the purchase of a new Pierce engine made to the Town's specifications. He stated the Town is attempting to standardize their equipment since most of the equipment is Pierce, which the department has been trained on.

Chief Schroeder explained that Engine 4 was the last piece of equipment that was not a Pierce. There is a factory representative in Rocky Hill so any repair or parts would be easy to get.

Councilor Bottalico asked if the Town always got three quotes in the past and if the Chief was comfortable the Town was getting the best price. Chief Schroeder explained that Pierce was the only bidder for the last two pieces of equipment and since he knew what area towns had paid for equipment, he was comfortable Newington was getting a good price. John Salomone stated that by doing a waiver, he would be able to negotiate a better price with Pierce instead of having to take whatever the bid price might be.

Councilor Klett had reservations about the waiver since Pierce would not know they were the only company bidding and would make Pierce stay competitive even if they are the only bidder. She wanted to ensure the Town was getting the best price and by waiving the bidding process would not cost the Town more money. Chief Schroeder explained that other manufacturers would have different power trains, pumps, etc. so that the equipment the staff had trained on would not be standardized if they went with another engine. She asked how

many companies could possibly bid on the equipment and Chief Schroeder replied that possibly six total could bid.

Councilor Cohen stated that she had no problem with the waiver since it would allow for negotiating the best price and if the Town went to bid, would have to accept the bidder's price.

Councilor DelBuono felt that there were good points made before voting for the waiver and understood the rationale for wanting to buy the Pierce. She felt that it was a good idea for companies to feel they were in a competition so the price would be competitive. She asked what the drawback would be to go out to bid. Mr. Salomone explained that they probably would not get another bid, and he would prefer to have the flexibility to negotiate.

Councilor Nagel asked if it was necessary to waive the bid to cut the time shorter and if there was a safety issue in terms of needing that particular piece of equipment. Chief Schroeder said that going out to bid takes several months since it takes about a year to build an engine. Mr. Salomone stated that it was not a safety issue and that waiving the bidding process was the honest, upfront way to get the equipment.

Mayor Woods stated that years ago the Fire Department researched the best equipment and this piece would be the final piece in the process. Councilor McBride had no problem with waiving the bid but asked if they would have trouble selling the old equipment to other towns and was told by the Chief, it would not be a problem.

VII RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

A. Central CT Health District Board

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Nancy Bafundo from the Central Connecticut Health District, in accordance with a letter dated March 15, 2012.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel and the motion passed 9 – 0.

VIII TAX REFUNDS

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$ 1,531.62 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the "Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes," certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and the motion passed 9 – 0.

IX MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. Public Hearing – Town Manager's Proposed Budget, March 13, 2012

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Councilor McBride and seconded by Councilor Klett. The motion passed 9 – 0.

B. Regular Meeting – March 13, 2012

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Councilor Nagel and seconded by Councilor DelBuono. The motion passed 9 – 0.

X WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC .

None

XI COUNCIL LIASON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Cohen stated that the small amount left over in the Transition Academy budget and the money in the facilities account would be used to purchase an audio system and would be wired for direct feed from the Town cable station.

Councilor Nagel said he had attended a recent Historical Society meeting. He stated that the Society would like to have the roof for the Kellogg Eddy House included in a bonding issue instead of putting it in the CIP account for next year. Councilor Nagel forwarded information from the Historical Society to the Mayor on types of roofing used for historical home roofs.

Councilor McBride said that the finishing touches were being done on Market Square.

Councilor Klett remarked that the Town Manager's Evaluation Sub-committee would be meeting on April 10 at 5 p.m. and asked Jamie Trevethan to put out an agenda for it. She stated that the committee would attempt to have the evaluation done on time this year.

Councilor Bottalico stated that CIP Committee adopted a budget, which was in the Councilor's packet to be reviewed on Thursday.

XII PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

XIII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor DelBuono stated she was remiss in not thanking Nancy Bafundo for all her work on the Health District committee.

Councilor Nagel expressed his appreciation and thanks to all involved in the High School show of Hairspray and the reception beforehand. He stated the culinary arts students provided wonderful food, the band was terrific, the cast wonderful and wanted to thank the community for their support.

Councilor Klett also congratulated everyone involved in Hairspray for an amazing performance and for the culinary arts students' preparation of food. She reminded everyone the middle school was performing the Sound of Music this coming weekend and urged the community to attend. She asked John about the status of the Blight Ordinance. He replied the lawyer had been reviewing it, making changes and would have it back to the Council after the budget had been passed.

Councilor McBride wanted to congratulate the High School Hockey team on their first State Championship and thought the Council should do a proclamation for the team.

Mayor Woods wanted to thank Dr. Finkelstein and the Board of Education for the reception prior to Hairspray and all the students involved in the show for a wonderful job. He also wanted to congratulate the Hockey team for a great season.

XIV ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor DelBuono to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Cohen. The motion passed 9 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson
Clerk of the Council